

Meeting Minutes-State Interagency Team Meeting

Thursday, April 23, 2020

2:00-3:00

Location: Skype only

Facilitator and Note Taker: Diane Bugbee

Present: Diane Bugbee, Dana Robson, Alicia Hanrahan, Suzanne Legare-Belcher, Karen Bielawski-Branch, Morgan Cole, Karen Price, Barb Joyal, Brenda Gooley, Melanie D'Amico, Amy Lincoln-Moore, Danielle Bragg
Regrets: Amy Roth, Auburn Watersong, Laurel Omland, Cheryle Wilcox

Agenda Item	Discussion Notes
Department/Agency Updates	<p>DAIL:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• DDSD/DAIL has developed COVID-19 temporary relief measures for families of individuals receiving HCBS and for those not receiving HCBS.• For families not receiving HCBS, an increase in Family Managed Respite has been allocated to all DAs. These funds may be allocated to families due to increased needs during the state of emergency.• DDSD/DAIL partnered with the Vermont Family Network to hold a Zoom Town with stakeholders this week to discuss the options. Families will work with their case manager/service coordinator to see what options they may qualify for.• Please refer to the DAIL website for comprehensive COVID-19 related information: https://dail.vermont.gov/ <p>Family Services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• There has been a dramatic reduction in calls to centralized intake and accepted reports since the state of emergency was declared. Mandated reporters like teachers and schools are a huge part of the safety net for children. DCF has been discussing ways to increase the awareness about the vulnerability of families; for example, public services announcements and Front Porch Forum to let people know what to do, how to reach out if they are concerned about a child and family.• Parent-child visitation is front and center in the legislature right now. Most parent-child contact is virtual. However, some families are not satisfied with this arrangement and have appealed this. This can become delayed in the court system. It is a balance to protect parental rights and public health/safety.• Family Services is providing additional financial and virtual support to foster families.• Family Services reduced the number of youths in residential placements just prior to the COVID-19 outbreak and appreciate the collaborative work with partners to make this happen.• There are currently 7-8 youth in custody who are COVID-19 positive. These youth reside in congregate residential care settings and are currently sheltering in place. If there is a need to move them from these programs, Brenda has been working closely with the Chittenden County Recovery Center, so they have a safe place to go.

- Some families who may have seemed to be reluctant to engage with DCF have been more engaged remotely and there have been good successes. This medium may be more effective for some families. This has been an inspiring silver lining.

DMH:

- DMH and ADAP jointly applied for a Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) grant with only seven business days to complete the grant application; we were notified just four business days later that Vermont received the maximum of \$2Million. This grant will contribute to our system for provision of crisis intervention services, mental and substance use disorder treatment, and other related recovery supports for children and adults impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The grant will allow VT to address statewide mental health and substance use COVID-19 associated needs through implementation and expansion of services and supports, and bolstering emergency services and mobile response. It will also increase access to care for healthcare workers with mental disorders.
- Residents of MTCR are still at VPCH on a separate wing. We are working with DCF-FSD to determine when folks can move back; several youths from Woodside are currently using MTCR.
- Woodside was going to be used for adults who tested positive for COVID-19 who also had inpatient mental health needs. However, it was determined there would be more access to medical personnel at the Windham Center in Springfield which is part of their hospital so DMH is now working with them to stand up a 10-bed program which also increases capacity in general for adults with MH needs.
- We have been working hard as a team at DMH to get out information about mental health (see one-pagers attached) and Public Service Announcements about mental health. The first PSA was released last week and was a wonderful one done by Governor Scott. You can see/listen to this whether you have a Twitter account or not. <https://twitter.com/govphilscott/status/1251615933417885696?s=21>
- Upcoming PSA with Vermont State Police and K-9 puppy coming soon and will focus on children's mental health.
- There were fifteen children in residential programs whose parents made the decision to bring them home. Current numbers are holding steady. After an initial quiet period, some situations are bubbling a bit.
- There are some families engaging well with telehealth, others not, reaching out to support families as best as possible.
- There are families struggling with data plans not being adequate to support remote and virtual contacts. DMH has been encouraging DAs to use their remaining special services monies to help families in this area.

CDD:

- CDD CIS is providing remote service delivery exclusively. There are variations in engagement challenges with delivery. Some families may be overwhelmed or there may be other reasons.
- CDD has set up a provider relief fund to ensure there are staff to deliver services.

- They are looking ahead to July 1 with new payment model to roll out. It is challenging to think about this in the context of the COVID-19 hit since some regions will experience reductions and they are seeing increased complexity of challenges children are having.
- Re: childcare – they are working with AOE and the Governor’s office to serve kids of essential workers and thinking ahead how to include kids with specialized needs in the process. They want to be thoughtful about this transition.

AHS Field Services:

- Very interested in any PSAs created by Family Services. Suzanne is part of COVID-19 outreach teams that meet with other professionals in their communities to assess where the gaps are. The collaboration has been incredible. Suzanne can share information with these teams and other field directors.
- The initial focus was on families who were homeless. The number of families increased from 4-6 to 110 being housed. They work with AOE with food delivery and have BIs working with kids and families in the hotels.
- They are starting to think about recovery and what is next.

DVHA:

- They continue to work with providers with telehealth audio and visual options. Some providers struggling more. DVHA is assisting them, giving ideas. Efforts are being made to create retainer funds to assist providers during the state of emergency.

Vermont Family Network:

- Hosted and coordinated the details of the DDSD/DAIL Town Hall re: family relief options as well as one for Children with Special Health Needs and the temporary changes to the Children’s Personal Care Program. Both Town Halls are available on the VFN website. Their website also has family friendly COVID-19 information for families.
- VFN and VR will have a virtual youth summit at the end of May for young people with disabilities. Hasan Davis from Kentucky will be the Keynote. VFN has produced two videos using their Puppets in Education – one focuses on anxiety and one focuses on domestic violence.
- VFN is hearing from families with concerns about 1) their child’s education not being penalized when discussing compensatory services; 2) their child may not have received all transition services - will their education be extended, or will they still graduate?
- Special Education rules were opened because of Act 173. The comment period is set to close at the end of May. There is consideration of extending this period to the end of the calendar year due to interested parties’ focus on activities related to the state of emergency. This extension would need to be passed by the Legislature in May.

	<p>Federation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very sad to say good-bye to Cindy Tabor who has resigned as the Executive Director. Cindy is currently focusing on continuing to heal from the head injury she experienced earlier this year. Cindy will continue on the Act 264 Board and State Program Standing Committee and DMH is very grateful! • Cindy has offered to help part-time with orienting a new person in her role. The Board has not met yet to discuss this option. • Amy said she can share Cindy's address if you would like to send a card. Please email her. • Sandi Yandow will continue as Interim Executive Director. • Weekly updates and meetings by Zoom are being held to support families. These are primarily follow ups from previous CSPs prior to school closures. • Calls to their 800 number have lessened but starting to pick up; meetings by Zoom. <p>AOE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuity of Learning plans are now up and running for kids. The special education team issued a guidance checklist for compensatory education for children with disabilities. Guidance also went out on graduation and transition services. AOE continues to pay for education services for children in residential facilities. • Schools have been providing meals for kids and this continues through the school vacation weeks. • There are some kids at home and not engaging with education. It may be for a variety of reasons, including access to internet. Schools are reaching out as best they can. • AOE is busy with CFP team Title 1234A activities for at risk youth. • AOE is extending licensing period for educators. • Alicia has joined a Community of Practice, focusing on what to do when kids get back into session. What will this transition look like? • AOE and DMH sent a joint memo to schools and DAs to keep their contracts. • On May 8th, the Secretary of Education will issue Guidance about 2020 graduation. • We do not yet know about Extended School Year (ESY).
<p>2:50 Adjourn</p>	<p>SIT appreciated having an abbreviated meeting</p>